Today's News - Tuesday, July 29, 2008

– The greatest game of one-upmanship: an eyeful of Dubai's skyline growing ever higher.
– McDougall dreams of a new Adelaide.
– Peirce discusses the future of cities and suburbs (and other things).
– Fraser offers an urban potpourri from Johannesburg.
– Kamin on Block 37's broadcast screen: "it's "too small and awkwardly placed" (too bad CBS opted for its own thing instead of architect's suggestions).
– Preservationists not at all pleased with British Museum expansion plans (least of all, it seems, with the architect).
– Hawthorne on L.A.'s Mark Taper Forum makeover: nice, but choice of architect was "a recipe for aesthetic overload."
– Koolhaas wanders Glasgow checking sites for his first Maggie's Centre (and his only, says he).
– Beijing's last-minute beautification plans include walling off eyesores (let's not even get into the city's air quality).
– Barnes Foundation picks Olin to landscape new home on Philly's Benjamin Franklin Parkway.
– 224 buildings from 43 countries make World Architecture Festival Awards shortlist (who isn't on it?).
– 2008 Queensland Architecture Awards led by education and research buildings.
– Princeton Review's "The Best 368 Colleges" now ranks the greenest campuses (along with best at partying).
– Calls for entries: SBIC 2008 Beyond Green High-Performance Building Awards. – RFP for AIA Sustainable Design Assessment Teams. – XVI Quito Pan-American Architecture Biennale International Competition. – IDS 09 Prototype Competition/Exhibition.
– We couldn't resist: Zaha Take 1: her recyclable shoe design is "ideal for vegans, environmentalists - and architects." – Take 2: "stick to the day job."

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In a Desert City, a Skyline Grows Ever Higher: ...Dubai also has six other skyscrapers of at least 100 stories in the works, making it the super-tall building capital of the world "It's the greatest game of one-upmanship I've ever seen"... -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); ELS; Pei Partnership; Aedas [slide show]- Architectural Record

Op-Ed: Dreaming of a new Adelaide: This dream of hope is for a place noisy with the discussion of design and courageous argument, positions taken, a loud community of opinion. By Ian McDougall / Ashton Raggatt McDougall (ARM)- The Independent Weekly (Australia)

Neal Peirce Discusses the Past and Future of the Metropolis: ...the future of suburbs...negative impacts affecting cities...- PLANetizen

Urban potpourri: From the restored Salisbury House in Jeppestown to the drop in office vacancies, by way of the Hillbrow Tower, the urban development zone, Woolworths and strange landscaping ideas, Neil Fraser has a full plate.- City of Johannesburg (South Africa)

Not seeing eye to eye at Block 37: A battle over CBS 2's broadcast screen: ...both too small and awkwardly placed..."We gave them ideas but in the end they did their own thing," said the architect... By Blair Kamin -- Ralph Johnson/Perkins+Will [images, link]- Chicago Tribune

Modernist development at British Museum will destroy key period details, say critics: ...£130 million exhibition centre...has provoked anger from heritage groups...pavilions resembled hulks in a dry dock that were "more to do with the architect's current design obsessions than any unique solution specifically tailored for the British Museum"... -- Rogers Stirk Harbour- The Times (UK)

The renovated Mark Taper Forum: The $30-million renovation reaffirms -- and complicates -- its landmark stature...squeezing two different "total" visions inside a single building...is a recipe for aesthetic overload. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Welton Becket (1967); Rios Clementi Hale Studios- Los Angeles Times

Drawing up a blueprint for an oasis of peace and care: Rem Koolhaas...is checking out the three sites [in Glasgow] he's been offered on which to build his first-ever Maggie's Centre. -- Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA)- The Herald (Scotland)

Before Guests Arrive, Beijing Hides Some Messes: Some businesses and residents will spend the Olympics behind walls erected to keep their

property out of sight...part of a last-minute beautification campaign. [slide show]- New York Times

Barnes Foundation picks landscape architect: Continuing to prepare for a move to the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia...Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects, along with the Building Committee...chose Olin Partnership...- The Phoenix (Pennsylvania)

Shortlist: 224 buildings from 43 countries have made it on to the first ever World Architecture Festival Awards shortlist.- World Architecture Festival

New education and research buildings score top marks at AIA 2008 Queensland Architecture Awards -- m3architecture; Architectus; John Wardle Architects/Wilson Architects; Studio 3; Cox Rayner; Hassell; Elizabeth Watson Brown; Owen and Vokes; Sparks Architects; Bligh Graham; Bligh Voller Nield; Deicke Richards; Allen Jack + Cottier; JMA Architects; etc. [links]- Australian Institute of Architects (formerly RAIA)

Princeton Review "The Best 368 Colleges" Ranks Happiest and Greenest Campuses -- and Top Partyers [links]- The Chronicle of Higher Education

Call for entries: SBIC 2008 Beyond Green High-Performance Building Awards; deadline: October 15- Sustainable Buildings Industry Council (SBIC)

Call for entries: AIA Sustainable Design Assessment Team Issues RFP for 2009 Program; proposals from communities due November 14- AIArchitect

Call for entries: XVI Quito Pan-American Architecture Biennale International Competition: Social Habitat and Development...to improve the lives of most vulnerable urban populations; cash prizes; deadline: September 5- BAQ/2008 | Colegio de Arquitectos del Ecuador

Call for entries: IDS 09 Prototype Competition/Exhibition: creative concepts not currently in production for furniture, lighting, textiles, products, and accessories; open to international independent designers and studios (no manufacturers).; deadline: October 20 [pdf]- Interior Design Show (Toronto)

Zaha Hadid designs plastic shoes: ...collaborates with shoe company Melissa to create futuristic shoes...we're reassured that the shoes can be disassembled and recycled too, making them ideal for vegans, environmentalists - and architects. [video link]- The Times (UK)

The shoes that say stick to the day job: Look at these shoes...On the one hand, perhaps we should be impressed...that, unlike many of Hadid's designs, they have seen the light of day. On the other, they sum up in microcosm the problem of preferring to focus on style over any thought for practicality. -- melissa + Zaha Hadid [image]- Guardian (UK)

-- John McAslan + Partners: Stanislavsky Center, Stanislavsky Theater, Moscow, Russia
-- Book: Writing and Seeing Architecture by Christian de Portzamparc & Philippe Sollers

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